



For Release: Tuesday, March 12, 2019

19-419-NEW

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY INFORMATION OFFICE: New York City, N.Y.

Technical information: (646) 264-3600 BLSinfoNY@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/new-york-new-jersey

Media contact: (646) 264-3620

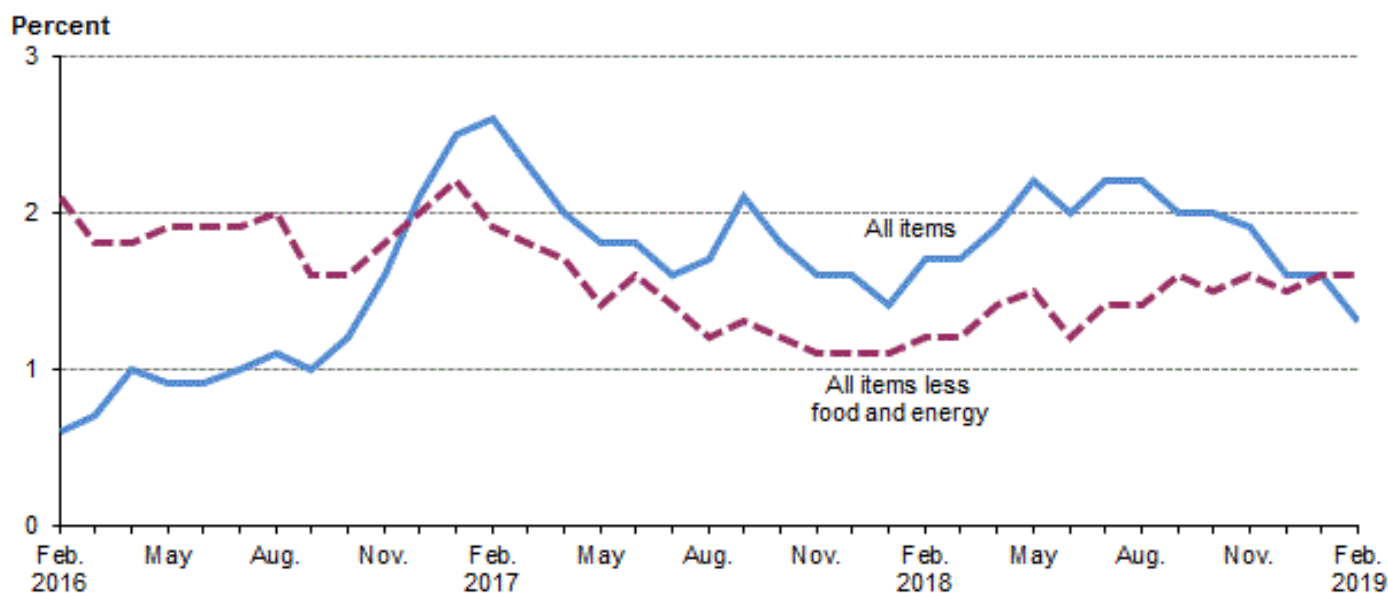
Consumer Price Index, New York-Newark-Jersey City – February 2019

Area prices up 0.2 percent over the month and 1.3 percent over the year

Prices in the New York-Newark-Jersey City area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), edged up 0.2 percent in February, following a 0.5-percent increase in January, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Chief Regional Economist Martin Kohli attributed the rise to higher prices for shelter and apparel. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the year, the CPI-U increased 1.3 percent. The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.6 percent. (See [table A](#) and [chart 1](#).) Price increases for shelter drove the 12-month change in both indexes. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, New York-Newark-Jersey City, February 2016–February 2019



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index ticked up 0.1 percent, following a 0.6-percent increase in January. Prices for food away from home rose 0.4 percent for the second consecutive month. Prices for food at home, on the other hand, edged down 0.2 percent, with price declines in four of the six grocery groups. Groceries with lower prices in February included tomatoes, uncooked beef roasts, and carbonated drinks.

For the year ending in February 2019, the food index rose 2.3 percent. Food-away-from-home prices advanced 3.0 percent, and food-at-home prices increased 1.7 percent.

Energy

The energy index decreased 2.2 percent, marking the eighth consecutive month without an increase. Lower prices for electricity (-3.2 percent) and natural gas (-3.1 percent) led to a 2.8-percent decline in household energy prices. Gasoline prices dropped 1.2 percent, after falling by more than 4.0 percent in each of the prior three months.

Over the year, the energy index was down 4.3 percent, primarily reflecting a 9.8-percent decline in gasoline prices. A 1.3-percent decline in electricity prices was in part offset by a 4.4-percent rise in natural gas prices, contributing to a 0.4-percent decline in household energy prices.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.5 percent for the second consecutive month. Prices for apparel, often up in February, rose 5.1 percent, and a 0.4-percent advance in shelter prices included a 0.4-percent rise in residential rent. Higher prices were reported for new and used motor vehicles (1.2 percent), airline fares, recreation (0.5 percent), motor vehicle insurance (0.6 percent), and other goods and services (0.6 percent).

From February 2018 to February 2019, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.6 percent. A 2.2-percent rise in shelter prices included a 2.5-percent rise in residential rent and a 2.2-percent increase in owners' equivalent rent. Other expenditure categories posting increases of at least 2.0 percent included medical care (3.5 percent); tuition, other school fees, and childcare (3.3 percent); and motor vehicle insurance (2.5 percent). In contrast, prices were down 2.3 percent for apparel.

Table A. New York-Newark-Jersey City CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

| Month | 2014 | | 2015 | | 2016 | | 2017 | | 2018 | | 2019 | |
|----------------|---------|----------|---------|----------|--------------------|--------------------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| | 1-month | 12-month | 1-month | 12-month | 1-month | 12-month | 1-month | 12-month | 1-month | 12-month | 1-month | 12-month |
| January..... | 0.9 | 1.9 | 0.1 | -0.5 | 0.2 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 2.5 | 0.4 | 1.4 | 0.5 | 1.6 |
| February..... | -0.2 | 1.1 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 2.6 | 0.5 | 1.7 | 0.2 | 1.3 |
| March..... | 0.4 | 1.3 | 0.2 | -0.1 | 0.2 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 2.3 | 0.0 | 1.7 | | |
| April..... | 0.0 | 1.6 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 1.0 | 0.1 | 2.0 | 0.3 | 1.9 | | |
| May..... | 0.5 | 1.9 | 0.4 | -0.1 | 0.3 | 0.9 | 0.1 | 1.8 | 0.4 | 2.2 | | |
| June..... | 0.0 | 1.7 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.2 ^(r) | 0.9 ^(r) | 0.2 | 1.8 | 0.1 | 2.0 | | |
| July..... | 0.1 | 1.6 | -0.1 | -0.1 | -0.1 | 1.0 | -0.2 | 1.6 | 0.0 | 2.2 | | |
| August..... | -0.2 | 1.3 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 1.1 | 0.2 | 1.7 | 0.1 | 2.2 | | |
| September..... | 0.0 | 1.0 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 0.5 | 2.1 | 0.4 | 2.0 | | |
| October..... | -0.2 | 1.3 | -0.1 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 1.2 | -0.2 | 1.8 | -0.1 | 2.0 | | |
| November..... | -0.4 | 0.8 | -0.2 | 0.6 | 0.2 | 1.6 | -0.1 | 1.6 | -0.2 | 1.9 | | |
| December..... | -0.5 | 0.3 | -0.4 | 0.7 | 0.1 | 2.1 | 0.1 | 1.6 | -0.2 | 1.6 | | |

Footnotes:
(R) = revised.

CPI-W

In February, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 270.250, up 0.2 percent over the month. The CPI-W rose 1.2 percent over the year.

The March 2019 Consumer Price Index for New York-Newark-Jersey City is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE:Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The New York-Newark-Jersey City, N.Y.-N.J.-Pa., Core Based Statistical Area includes Bronx, Dutchess, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties in New York; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, and Union Counties in New Jersey; and Pike County in Pennsylvania.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA, not seasonally adjusted (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

| Item and Group | Indexes | | | Percent change from- | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Dec. 2018 | Jan. 2019 | Feb. 2019 | Feb. 2018 | Dec. 2018 | Jan. 2019 |
| Expenditure category | | | | | | |
| All items | 273.836 | 275.144 | 275.823 | 1.3 | 0.7 | 0.2 |
| All items (1967=100) | 791.621 | 795.404 | 797.367 | | | |
| Food and beverages | 268.413 | 269.800 | 269.907 | 2.3 | 0.6 | 0.0 |
| Food | 268.381 | 269.865 | 270.046 | 2.3 | 0.6 | 0.1 |
| Food at home | 257.467 | 259.288 | 258.689 | 1.7 | 0.5 | -0.2 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 299.450 | 298.472 | 305.249 | 1.5 | 1.9 | 2.3 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs | 254.975 | 252.938 | 251.255 | 0.7 | -1.5 | -0.7 |
| Dairy and related products | 224.573 | 228.319 | 224.142 | -0.5 | -0.2 | -1.8 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 336.830 | 337.497 | 333.452 | 3.8 | -1.0 | -1.2 |
| Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1) | 246.390 | 258.466 | 256.656 | 0.8 | 4.2 | -0.7 |
| Other food at home | 225.145 | 226.663 | 228.020 | 2.6 | 1.3 | 0.6 |
| Food away from home | 291.130 | 292.168 | 293.474 | 3.0 | 0.8 | 0.4 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 264.326 | 264.364 | 263.448 | 2.2 | -0.3 | -0.3 |
| Housing | 299.249 | 301.140 | 301.233 | 2.0 | 0.7 | 0.0 |
| Shelter | 379.546 | 380.188 | 381.584 | 2.2 | 0.5 | 0.4 |
| Rent of primary residence | 392.999 | 394.041 | 395.438 | 2.5 | 0.6 | 0.4 |
| Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2) | 388.356 | 388.442 | 388.611 | 2.2 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2) | 387.875 | 387.961 | 388.130 | 2.2 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Fuels and utilities | 193.771 | 200.021 | 195.193 | 0.1 | 0.7 | -2.4 |
| Household energy | 184.852 | 191.719 | 186.384 | -0.4 | 0.8 | -2.8 |
| Energy services | 176.312 | 183.767 | 177.937 | 0.9 | 0.9 | -3.2 |
| Electricity | 171.536 | 179.787 | 173.987 | -1.3 | 1.4 | -3.2 |
| Utility (piped) gas service | 173.498 | 179.292 | 173.755 | 4.4 | 0.1 | -3.1 |
| Household furnishings and operations | 108.368 | 111.667 | 110.693 | 1.4 | 2.1 | -0.9 |
| Apparel | 117.528 | 121.501 | 127.683 | -2.3 | 8.6 | 5.1 |
| Transportation | 216.186 | 214.294 | 215.269 | -2.0 | -0.4 | 0.5 |
| Private transportation | 204.137 | 201.636 | 202.076 | -2.1 | -1.0 | 0.2 |
| New and used motor vehicles(3) | 89.426 | 90.020 | 91.099 | -1.1 | 1.9 | 1.2 |
| New vehicles(1) | 201.708 | 203.109 | 204.632 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 0.7 |
| Used cars and trucks(1) | 264.360 | 266.225 | 267.583 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 0.5 |
| Motor fuel | 210.915 | 199.239 | 196.935 | -9.7 | -6.6 | -1.2 |
| Gasoline (all types) | 209.860 | 198.224 | 195.926 | -9.8 | -6.6 | -1.2 |
| Gasoline, unleaded regular(4) | 208.405 | 196.469 | 194.232 | -10.2 | -6.8 | -1.1 |
| Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5) | 220.941 | 210.273 | 207.486 | -7.5 | -6.1 | -1.3 |
| Gasoline, unleaded premium(4) | 222.012 | 212.662 | 209.920 | -6.8 | -5.4 | -1.3 |
| Motor vehicle insurance(1) | 756.993 | 757.926 | 762.731 | 2.5 | 0.8 | 0.6 |
| Medical care | 497.055 | 501.396 | 501.561 | 3.5 | 0.9 | 0.0 |
| Recreation(3) | 124.279 | 124.605 | 125.201 | -0.1 | 0.7 | 0.5 |
| Education and communication(3) | 142.726 | 143.331 | 143.119 | 1.0 | 0.3 | -0.1 |
| Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) | 1,197.848 | 1,200.430 | 1,204.954 | 3.3 | 0.6 | 0.4 |
| Other goods and services | 432.511 | 432.522 | 435.245 | 1.9 | 0.6 | 0.6 |

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA, not seasonally adjusted (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

| Item and Group | Indexes | | | Percent change from- | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Dec. 2018 | Jan. 2019 | Feb. 2019 | Feb. 2018 | Dec. 2018 | Jan. 2019 |
| Commodity and service group | | | | | | |
| All items | 273.836 | 275.144 | 275.823 | 1.3 | 0.7 | 0.2 |
| Commodities | 188.586 | 189.572 | 189.976 | -0.5 | 0.7 | 0.2 |
| Commodities less food and beverages | 140.883 | 141.627 | 142.143 | -2.8 | 0.9 | 0.4 |
| Nondurables less food and beverages | 179.128 | 178.573 | 180.271 | -4.3 | 0.6 | 1.0 |
| Durables | 92.459 | 94.605 | 93.793 | 0.4 | 1.4 | -0.9 |
| Services | 345.596 | 347.191 | 348.090 | 2.0 | 0.7 | 0.3 |
| Special aggregate indexes | | | | | | |
| All items less medical care | 264.143 | 265.321 | 266.022 | 1.2 | 0.7 | 0.3 |
| All items less shelter | 231.888 | 233.510 | 233.886 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 0.2 |
| Commodities less food | 145.461 | 146.188 | 146.664 | -2.6 | 0.8 | 0.3 |
| Nondurables | 225.014 | 225.360 | 226.347 | -0.7 | 0.6 | 0.4 |
| Nondurables less food | 184.263 | 183.739 | 185.298 | -3.8 | 0.6 | 0.8 |
| Services less rent of shelter(2) | 319.746 | 322.447 | 322.814 | 1.8 | 1.0 | 0.1 |
| Services less medical care services | 332.933 | 334.186 | 335.097 | 1.8 | 0.6 | 0.3 |
| Energy | 197.330 | 197.187 | 192.940 | -4.3 | -2.2 | -2.2 |
| All items less energy | 283.194 | 284.654 | 285.825 | 1.7 | 0.9 | 0.4 |
| All items less food and energy | 287.724 | 289.192 | 290.525 | 1.6 | 1.0 | 0.5 |

Footnotes

- (1) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.
- (2) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.
- (3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.
- (4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.
- (5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.